

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR BROADBAND MULTI-USER  
COMMUNICATION SESSIONS

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

5 A system and method of setting up a multi-user communication session over a  
global computer network are provided. The method includes first sending a session  
participation request message from a first user to a second user, where the session  
participation request message includes the first user's QoS requirements for the  
session. The second user then sends a negotiating message to the first user in  
10 response to receiving the session participation request message, where the negotiation  
message includes the second user's QoS requirements for the session responsive to the  
first user's QoS requirements. The resource availability in access networks of the first  
and second users according to the second user's QoS requirements is determined, and  
resources in the respective access networks of the first and second users are then  
reserved in response to resources being available to achieve the second user's QoS  
requirements. The first user thereafter sends an acknowledgement message to the  
15 second user in response to receiving the negotiating message to indicate the  
completion of QoS provisioning.